

Message Text

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ORIGIN AID-20

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AFR/CWR:ICOKER

AFR/CWR:JPATTERSON (DRAFT)

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TO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: SHORT-TERM ASSISTANCE NEEDS FOR MAURITANIA

ABIDJAN FOR REDSO

REFS: (A) STATE 016090 (B) NOUAKCHOTT 326 (C) STATE

50312

1. AS INDICATED REF (C), YOUR SHORT-TERM ASSESSMENT CON-
SIDERED VERY USEFUL HERE. WISH TO INITIATE AN ONGOING
DIALOGUE ON FOUR CRITICAL SUBJECTS HIGHLIGHTED IN YOUR
ASSESSMENT: TRUCK MAINTENANCE, FOOD PREPOSITIONING,
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FUEL STORAGE, AND CONTINGENCY MEASURES FOR NOMADS.

(A) TRUCK MAINTENANCE: AID/W ASSUMES THAT UNICEF/AID/FRG FINANCED MAINTENANCE FACILITY WILL HAVE NO RPT NO APPRECIABLE EFFECT ON GIRM TRANSPORT SYSTEM THIS SEASON. CONSEQUENTLY, STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY TO SHORE-UP GIRM MAINTENANCE CAPABILITY. ONE POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO SECURE TWO OR THREE TDY EXPERT MECHANICS THROUGH OSRO FOR PERIOD APRIL-JULY. REQUEST YOU DISCUSS PROBLEM WITH GIRM/DONOR REPS AND ADVISE AID/W ASAP WHAT APPROACH MOST LIKELY TO RESULT IN MAXIMUM NUMBER OF GIRM TRUCKS REMAINING ROAD-WORTHY OVER APRIL-JULY PERIOD. RECOGNIZE THAT AIR SHIPMENT OF SOME VEHICLE SPARE PARTS WILL PROBABLY BE A NECESSARY COMPONENT OF WHATEVER PLAN IS ADOPTED BY GIRM/DONORS.

(B) FOOD PREPOSITIONING: WE HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH CDO/FFPO PERSISTENCE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GIRM ON ISSUE OF STOCKS IN REMOTE AREAS (E.G., NOUAKCHOTT 345). AS ALL AWARE, GIRM FAILURE TO PREPOSITION IN PAST TWO YEARS NECESSITATED COSTLY U.S. AIRLIFTS. IN ORDER MONITOR PROGRESS GIRM MAKING IN 1975, AID/W REQUIRES AN ON-SITE REPORT OF CURRENT FOOD SITUATION IN NEMA, AOUN AND KIFFA. REQUEST CDO OR FFPO PLAN FIELD TRIP TO THOSE AREAS IN TIMEFRAME PERMIT CABLING FIELD-SITE REPORT TO AID/W BY APRIL 4. (REQUEST PLANNED ITINERARY FOR TRIP BE CABLED AID/W BY MARCH 13; POSSIBLE THAT AFR OFFICIAL WILL ACCOMPANY CDO/FFPO TO EASTERN MAURITANIA FOR ORIENTATION PURPOSES.)

(C) FUEL STORAGE: DURING MAY AND JUNE 1974 NOUAKCHOTT, AID/W AND DAKAR COLLABORATED IN PROVIDING FUEL STORAGE TANKS FOR STRATEGIC PLACEMENT OF FUEL RESERVES FOR TRUCKS TRANSPORTING RELIEF FOOD GRAINS INTO EASTERN REGIONS. AID/W ASSUMES THESE TANKS WERE PLACED AS PLANNED AND WILL BE USED DURING THE CURRENT FOOD PREPOSITIONING CAMPAIGN. AID/W WOULD APPRECIATE, HOWEVER, A SHORT REPORT ON THE PURCHASE/PLACEMENT/USE TO DATE OF THE TANKS. AND, IF TANKS WERE USEFUL, WHAT POTENTIAL OR NEED EXISTS FOR ADDITIONAL CAPACITY IN SUPPORT OF THE FOOD PREPOSITIONING CAMPAIGN. (REFS: NOUAKCHOTT 604,632,669, 834; DAKAR 2681; STATE 126499, 131555, 136884.)

(D) CONTINGENCY MEASURES FOR NOMADS: REQUEST CURRENT CDO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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READING ON NOMAD SITUATION ENVIRONS OF NOUAKCHOTT. HAS THERE BEEN A PERCEPTIBLE INCREASE OVER PAST MONTH IN THE NUMBER OF NOMADS WHO ARE DEPENDENT ON GOVERNMENT FEEDING PROGRAM? DOES MINISTER OF HEALTH VISUALIZE A MARKED INCREASE OVER NEXT FEW MONTHS? IN THIS CONNECTION WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RESPONSE TO STATE 15215 WHICH SUGGESTED AN R AND R INPUT TO ASSIST GIRM FIRMLY ESTABLISH DISPOSED PERSONS ARONDISSEMENT NEAR NOUAKCHOTT. NOUAK-

CHOTT 1918 HAD REFERRED TO THIS POSSIBILITY EARLIER. REQUEST ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS AND WHAT AID INPUT IS PLANNED/DESIRED.

2. AID/W SHARES YOUR CONCERN OVER LACK OF EFFECTIVE DONOR COORDINATION. HOPEFULLY, OCCASION OF MARCH GIRM/ DONOR SESSIONS TO UP-DATE MDM FOOD REQUIREMENTS FIGURES (STATE 043299) WILL BE LOOKED UPON BY DONORS REPS AS GOOD OPPORTUNITY PERSUADE GIRM USEFULNESS OF REGULAR

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